

City of Memphis



JIM STRICKLAND
MAYOR

TENNESSEE

January 23, 2017

Ben Adams
Baker Donelson
165 Madison Avenue #2000
Memphis, TN 38103

Re: Crime Commission

Dear Ben:

I recommend that we add Craig Weiss to the Crime Commission. Enclosed is his bio.

Craig owns and runs the largest private security firm in Memphis, and he contributes so much to our community through his involvement with non-profit organizations.

Please let me know how we can make this happen.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Strickland", written over a circular stamp.

Jim Strickland
Mayor

JS/phc

Enclosure

Craig L. Weiss is a native of Memphis, Tennessee and graduate of CBHS Class of 1985. He earned a BBA from the University of Texas at Austin in 1990 and MBA from the University of Memphis in 2000.

Craig is a co-founder and partner of Tower Ventures. Tower Ventures is one of the largest privately-held tower companies in the United States. Tower Ventures develops and leases towers for the cellular industry. Tower Ventures currently owns over 400 tower assets in 35 states.

In 2005, Craig purchased two Memphis-based security businesses and merged their accounts and created Central Defense Security. Craig and his partners have grown CDS to become the largest security provider in the Memphis market. CDS is headquartered in Memphis and has branches in Little Rock, AR Nashville, TN, Indianapolis, IN and several markets in Texas.

In 2013, Craig and his partners started Central Defense Staffing to provide General Staffing Services for many of the same industries CDS currently serves for security. In 2016, Central Defense Staffing received the Memphis Business Journal's Pacesetters Award being named the fastest growing private company in the Mid-South.

Craig serves as the Chief Executive Officer for both Central Defense Security and Central Defense Staffing.

Craig is a partner in Forum Automotive, a used car sales, leasing and financing company in Memphis.

Craig is the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Paragon Bank, a Memphis-based Community Bank with over \$330 million in assets.

Craig serves on the Advisory Board for Trestle Capital Partners a boutique merchant banking firm based in Memphis.

Craig serves on the Board of Directors for KULA, a fundraising platform for supporting schools and other causes via everyday purchases and loyalty programs.

Craig was selected by the Memphis Business Journal as one of their "Top 40 under 40" of local Community leaders in 2005.

Craig was named by the Memphis Business Quarterly as one of the Region's Power Players in Security in 2014 and 2015.

Non-Profit: Craig serves on the Executive Committee & Board of Directors for the United Way of the MidSouth. He serves as Chairman of the Public Policy Committee for UWMS. Craig recently joined the Board of the Memphis Child Advocacy Center and now serves on their Executive Committee as Secretary. Craig is the immediate past President of the Memphis Jewish Community Center and still serves on their Executive Committee and is currently Co-Chairing their Endowment and Legacy Campaign. Craig serves on the National Boards for BBYO, Jewish Rock Radio and the JCC Association.

Craig and his wife Cathy have three children, Isaac (16), Ari (14) and Ava (12).